

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A network control system comprising:

a computer network;

a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to said computer network, each image forming apparatus configured to record an image on a recording paper;

a server connected to said computer network and configured to store a graphic layout of an operation panel of all of the plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to said computer network and further configured to store information items of all of the plurality of image forming apparatuses connected to said computer network;

a computer connected to said computer network, comprising,

a print data generating unit configured to generate print data,

a computer display configured to display the graphic layout and the information items stored in the server, and

an input device configured to input data into the computer, said computer configured to select one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses to which an operator sends a print instruction and print data generated by the print data generating unit based on the information items displayed on the computer display.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A network control system according to Claim 18, wherein said information items include an installation location of said plurality of image forming apparatuses.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A network control system according to Claim 18, wherein said information items include machine models, presence or absence of specification data, and existence or non-existence of malfunctions in said plurality of image forming apparatuses.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A network control system according to Claim 19, wherein said information items further include machine models, presence or absence of specification data, and existence or non-existence of malfunctions in said plurality of image forming apparatuses.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): A network control system according to Claim 18, wherein said server further stores for each of the plurality of image forming apparatuses a layout of an operation panel.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A network control system according to Claim 19, wherein said server further stores for each of the plurality of image forming apparatuses a layout of an operation panel.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A network control system according to Claim 20, wherein said server further stores for each of the plurality of image forming apparatuses a layout of an operation panel.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): A network control system according to Claim 21, wherein said server further stores for each of the plurality of image forming apparatuses a layout of an operation panel.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): A network control system comprising:

computer network means;

a plurality of image forming means connected to said computer network means, each image forming means for recording an image on a recording paper;

server means connected to said computer network means for storing a graphic layout of an operation panel of all of the plurality of image forming means connected to said computer network means and further configured to store information items of all of the plurality of image forming means connected to said computer network means;

computer means connected to said computer network means, comprising,

means for generating print data,

display means for displaying the graphic layout and the information items stored in the server means, and

input means for inputting data into the computer means, said computer means selecting one of said plurality of image forming means to which an operator sends a print instruction and print data generated by the means for generating print data based on the information items displayed on the display means.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A network control system according to Claim 26, wherein said information items include an installation location of said plurality of image forming means.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): A network control system according to Claim 26, wherein said information items include machine models, presence or absence of specification

data, and existence or non- existence of malfunctions in said plurality of image forming means.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): A network control system according to Claim 27, wherein said information items further include machine models, presence or absence of specification data, and existence or non-existence of malfunctions in said plurality of image forming means.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A network control system according to Claim 26, wherein said server means further stores for each of the plurality of image forming means a layout of an operation panel means.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): A network control system according to Claim 27, wherein said server means further stores for each of the plurality of image forming means a layout of an operation panel means.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A network control system according to Claim 28, wherein said server means further stores for each of the plurality of image forming means a layout of an operation panel means.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): A network control system according to Claim 29, wherein said server means further stores for each of the plurality of image forming means a layout of an operation panel means.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): A server connected to a network having a client computer and a plurality of image forming apparatuses, comprising:

storing means for storing information items associated with image forming inherent to each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

receiving means for receiving requirements for image forming from said client computer;

searching means for performing a search for image forming apparatuses satisfying said requirements from among said plurality of image forming apparatuses based on said information items associated with image forming inherent to each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses, and reporting a result of said search to said client computer;

means for receiving a user selection from said client computer for selecting one of said plurality of image forming apparatuses to which an operator sends print data and a print instruction based on said result; and

means for transmitting, to said client computer, information items associated with image forming inherent to said one image forming apparatus selected, receiving from said client computer user instructions corresponding to said information items associated with image forming inherent to said one image forming apparatus selected, and sending an image forming execution instruction to said one selected image forming apparatus.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The server of Claim 34, wherein said result of said search includes an installation location of said image forming apparatuses satisfying said requirements.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The server of Claim 34, wherein when said requirements are not fully satisfied by any of said plurality of image forming apparatuses,

said searching means reports said result of said search in which image forming apparatuses partly satisfying said requirements are listed in order of decreasing number of said information items satisfying said requirements.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A client computer connected to a network having a plurality of image forming apparatuses and a server that stores information items associated with image forming inherent to each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses, comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting requirements for image forming to said server;

receiving means for receiving a result of a search performed by said server, said search searching for image forming apparatuses satisfying said requirements from among said plurality of image forming apparatuses based on said information items associated with image forming to each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

means for displaying said result of said search performed by said server;

means for entering a user selection for selecting one image forming apparatus to which an operator sends print data and a print instruction from among said image forming apparatuses satisfying said requirements according to said result of said search; and

means for receiving, from said server, information items associated with image forming inherent to said one image forming apparatus selected, entering user instructions corresponding to said one selected image forming apparatus, and sending an image forming execution instruction to said server.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The client computer of Claim 37, wherein said result of said search includes an installation location of said image forming apparatuses satisfying said requirements.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The client computer of Claim 37, wherein when said requirements are not fully satisfied by any of said plurality of image forming apparatuses, said searching means reports said result of said search in which image forming apparatuses partly satisfying said requirements are listed in order of decreasing number of said information items satisfying said requirements.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): A network system comprising:  
a client computer generating print data, an image forming execution instruction, and requirements for image forming of the print data;  
a plurality of image forming apparatuses; and  
a server configured to perform a search for searching one image forming apparatus from among said plurality of image forming apparatuses in accordance with said requirements,

wherein said server includes:

means for storing information items associated with image forming inherent to each of said plurality of image forming apparatuses;

means for reporting a result of said search; and

means for transmitting a print instruction associated with image forming inherent to one image forming apparatus that is selected from among said image forming apparatuses according to said result of said search by a user through said client computer,

wherein said client computer includes:

means for displaying said result of said search;

means for entering a user selection for selecting one image forming apparatus from among said image forming apparatuses according to said result of said search;

means for receiving information items associated with image forming inherent to said one image forming apparatus selected by said user selection; and

means for entering an image forming execution instruction and requirements for image forming corresponding to said information items associated with image forming inherent to said one selected image forming apparatus.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The network system of Claim 40, wherein said result of said search includes an installation location of said image forming apparatuses satisfying said requirements.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The network system of Claim 40, wherein when said requirements are not fully satisfied by any of said plurality of image forming apparatuses, said searching means reports said result of said search in which image forming apparatuses partly satisfying said requirements are listed in order of decreasing number of said information items satisfying said requirements.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended): A method of controlling a network image forming, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

storing information items associated with image forming inherent to each of a plurality of image forming apparatuses;

receiving requirements for image forming from a client computer;

searching at least one image forming apparatus satisfying said requirements for image forming;

displaying a result of said searching step;

entering a user selection for selecting one image forming apparatus from among said at least one image forming apparatus to which an operator sends print data and a print instruction;

displaying information items associated with image forming inherent to said one image forming apparatus selected, from among said information items stored in said storing step; and

entering requirements corresponding to said information items associated with image forming inherent to said one image forming apparatus and an image forming execution instruction.

Claim 44 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein said result of said search includes an installation location of said image forming apparatuses satisfying said requirements.

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 43, wherein when said requirements are not fully satisfied by any of said plurality of image forming apparatuses, said searching means reports said result of said search in which image forming apparatuses partly satisfying said requirements are listed in order of decreasing number of said information items satisfying said requirements.